



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

October, 2015

REGISTRATION & CAPACITY:

All refuge programs are FREE, but space may be limited. Preregistration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. **Please Note:** If a program requires preregistration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

Programs conducted in the auditorium are limited to 75 attendees. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission of additional attendees will stop when capacity has been reached.

Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and/or insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.



Help Us Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week!

Walk Along the Refuge Dike!

Sunday, October 11th thru Sunday, October 18th

Enjoy this special and limited opportunity to walk along the refuge's North Pool dike – an area normally closed to public access. The dike's pathway provides additional, expansive views of the salt marsh – the incredibly valuable and beautiful wildlife habitat that comprises the majority of the refuge's acreage. Visitors will be able to park their vehicles and access the dike from Sub Headquarters, the North Pool Overlook, and/or the Hellcat cross-dike (refer to the refuge brochure map). Dike access is limited to foot traffic only. The Bill Forward Pool dike will remain closed. Refuge visitors are cautioned to be on the alert for the abundant patches of poison ivy that grow along the banks of the dike. Don't forget to bring binoculars, a camera, or perhaps even a spotting scope!

Phabulous Photo Weekend!

Friday, October 16th thru Sunday, October 18th

This event is a weekend-long celebration of all things nature and wildlife photography-related! There will be presentations, workshops, an exhibition of this year's photo contest entries and opportunities to check out the latest in photo gear. Event programs will be occurring at both the refuge visitor center and on the refuge itself. There will even be opportunities to photograph live birds of prey "up close and personal." Refer to the detailed photo weekend schedule that has been posted to the refuge web site:

http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/2015_PhabPhotoWeekend_FINAL.pdf. **Note that some workshops have limited capacity and require preregistration.** Call the refuge at (978) 465-5753 to register for these programs. Please also note that all other programs will be filled on a first come, first-served basis as the

visitor center auditorium has a limited capacity. Phabulous Photo Weekend is co-sponsored by the refuge, its Photographic Society, and Hunt's Photo.

Great Bay NWR - Behind the Scenes Tours

Saturday, October 17th – conducted throughout the day

Join refuge rangers for tours of the very scenic Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Tours will be ongoing throughout the day (first tour will begin at 9:30 am; final tour will leave at 2:00 pm) and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Because these tours involve minimal walking, they are well-suited for visitors with mobility issues. (Note: The refuge's tour vehicles are not handicap accessible.) Meet at the parking lot of Great Bay NWR, Newington, NH. For directions to the refuge, click on this link:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour of Parker River NWR

Friday, October 9th @9:30 am; Wednesday, October 14th @ 9:30 am; Monday, October 19th @9:30 am; Saturday, October 24th @9:30 am; Sunday, October 25th @ 1:00 pm; Friday, October 30th @ 9:30 am; and Saturday, October 31st @ 9:30 am

Held on the following days: Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief “drive by” stops along the way. The tour will present an “up close and personal” look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. Participants may be driven along areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time. Each session is limited to 14 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle – based tour, with limited stops on the Refuge. ***Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation. *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member. Please call (978) 465-5753; to register for this program.***

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Wednesday, October 21st AND Monday, October 26th – both programs held from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located in Newington, NH. Participants will have an opportunity to visit areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. See a diversity of wildlife habitats while learning how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for conservation. Consider bringing along binoculars and a camera. The tour is limited to 14 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. ***Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Parker River NWR visitor center in***

Newburyport no later than 9:00 am OR in the Great Bay NWR parking lot in Newington, NH no later than 9:45 am. (Indicate location you prefer at time of registration.) Preregistration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation.

****Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a refuge staff member. Please call (978) 465-5753 to register for this program. Preregistration required.*** For directions to the refuge, click on this link:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

These Visitor Center Exhibits Change Monthly:

Artist of the Month Gallery: Each month a different photographer or artist displays their nature and/or wildlife-related fine art in the refuge visitor center auditorium. Patricia Lane Evans is August's Artist of the Month. She is an avid nature photographer and active member of the Photographic Society of Parker River NWR.

Photographic Society Slide Show: Just inside the visitor center's front door is a large video monitor that displays the latest nature and wildlife-themed slide show that was produced by members of the refuge's very own photo club. A new slide show, set to music, and focusing on a unique theme, is produced each month.